

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN CHARLES SIMPSON'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF DEARBORN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Charles Simpson on the occasion of his retirement from the Dearborn Fire Department after almost 25 years of service to the City of Dearborn, Michigan. His significant service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Captain Simpson joined the Dearborn Fire Department in 1998 and that same year received the Fire Chief Life Saving Award. He consistently moved up the ranks of the Department, being promoted to Fire Engineer in 2007, Lieutenant in 2012, and finally Captain in 2017. Captain Simpson's dedication to duty is evident in earning a Perfect Attendance award 3 times in his career, as well as completing the Rope Rescue Operations training in 2016. Over the course of his extensive career, Captain Simpson has been the recipient of countless awards for excellence in service including the Fire Chief Life Saving Award, Fire Chief Unit Commendation, multiple Meritorious Company Commendations, Fire Chief Company Citation, and the John D. Dingell Medal of Freedom Memorial Commendation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Charles Simpson for his exemplary 25 years of service. He has selflessly served the City of Dearborn in his role as a Captain of the Fire Department and has been steadfastly dedicated to the safety of our community. I join with Captain Simpson's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in retirement.

GERMANY STANDS FOR
DEMOCRACY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, friends of democracy are grateful that today the Chancellor of Germany, Olaf Scholz, announced in a speech before the German Federal Parliament that Berlin will send German-made Leopard 2 tanks to defend Ukraine. Germany is well represented in Washington with Ambassador Emily Haber.

Chancellor Scholz recognizes we are in a worldwide competition of democracies with Rule of Law opposed by authoritarians with Rule of Gun.

This was an historic decision by the German government and one which will help Ukraine in its time of need as a renewed Putin spring of offensive likely draws near. This decision will not only help Ukraine win on the battlefield, and

save thousands of lives, but it will also enhance European and transatlantic security. I am also appreciative that our Polish allies are making a vital contribution by sending their own tanks to support Ukraine.

There is no doubt that the decision by President Biden to finally send American-made M1 Abrams tanks was essential in convincing our German allies to send the Leopard tanks to Ukraine. However, I am deeply concerned that it may take months for the Abrams tanks to reach Ukraine, time that the innocent people of Ukraine cannot afford.

Unfortunately, the administration continues to block essential weapons like the long-range Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS), which could help Ukraine win on the battlefield and end the conflict sooner. The ATACMS are crucial for Ukraine to defend itself against attack from Iranian drone systems and Russian forces based in Crimea. I call on President Biden to do the right thing and give Ukraine what it needs.

I especially appreciate Germany in that my home county of Lexington, South Carolina, was originally named Saxe Gotha being settled by enterprising German farmers. Also my maternal family was significantly German with my ancestor Daniel Weisiger born in Frankfurt in 1803, immigrating from Rotherdam in 1830 to Philadelphia then to Chesapeake, Virginia. I am named for his son David Addison Weisiger of Petersburg, Virginia.

God Bless the United States of America. God Bless Germany. God Bless Ukraine. God Bless President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Ukraine will achieve victory.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF LISA RENEE RANSOM, EXTRAORDINARY MARYLANDER, CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER, AND PUBLIC SERVANT.

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, Lisa Renee Ransom, who sadly passed away just a few days ago. I join countless people across Maryland and the country in mourning Lisa and in wishing strength to her loved ones as they cope with this terrible loss.

Throughout her life—which was tragically cut short—Lisa distinguished herself as a public servant and as a champion for greater equity, justice, and progress in America. She spent more than a dozen years in service to the American people as a Congressional staffer here in the House. Early in her career, she worked as an advisor to her lauded grandfather, Congressman Augustus 'Gus' Hawkins. She also served on the staffs of Representatives MAXINE WATERS and John Olver, helping them—and this entire institution—address challenges facing our economy and the work-

ers and families upon which it depends. She understood that promoting economic justice is essential to fulfilling America's founding promise to protect our citizens' right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." That mission continued to define Lisa's later work for organizations like the National Congress for Community Economic Development, the Center for Policy Alternatives, the Center for Responsible Lending, the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity, and the Augustus F. Hawkins Foundation. From her support for the Bowie Economic Development Committee to her historic election to the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, she also made important contributions to the state of Maryland. Additionally, she was a key member on the planning committee for my Annual Women's Equality Day Luncheon and frequently helped my team bring attention to pressing issues facing Southern Maryland. I will always be grateful for her partnership in our ongoing effort to build stronger, safer, and more prosperous communities throughout the state.

We were so fortunate to have Lisa return to the House just a few years ago to serve as the Outreach and Engagement Director on the Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness and Growth. She helped ensure that the committee's critical work remained grounded in the real stories and experiences of Americans who must navigate the complexities and challenges of the 21st Century economy every day. I have long shared her belief that for Nation to continue outcompeting the rest of the world, we cannot afford to leave workers and underserved communities behind. Lisa and the Select Committee played an important role in identifying not only the obstacles we may face as we address inequity but also the tools and strategies we can use to overcome them. Indeed, throughout her career, Lisa served as a crucial voice for women, communities of color, and others who are too often excluded from economic opportunities.

Despite the gravity of her work, Lisa remained a woman of gaiety. All those around her appreciated her warmth and humor—her family and friends most of all. Our long friendship certainly brightened my own life. Whether through Lisa's service to her fellow Marylanders and Americans, her leadership in the community, or her personal interactions with others, a sense of compassion and joy was evident in every dimension of her life. Lisa's lively spirit remained strong even as I spoke with her in her final days.

Just as her work will continue to benefit countless Americans across the country, memories of Lisa's amity will continue to enrich the lives of all those lucky enough to have known her. I hope that knowledge will bring some peace and comfort to her many loved ones in this time of mourning.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in praying for them and in showing our gratitude for Lisa's life of service. May God bless and keep Lisa.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE QUILTS OF VALOR FOUNDATION

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF) for its service to our Nation's servicemembers and veterans.

The Foundation began in 2003 by the inspiration of Catherine Roberts of Delaware, whose son was serving in Iraq. Tormented at the thought of a soldier sitting on his lonely cot in despair, Ms. Roberts enlisted the service of her local quilt guild to make quilts for Walter Reed Military Medical Center.

Since 2003, QOVF has expanded to over 10,000 volunteer members in over 600 groups nationwide, recently awarding its 350,000th Quilt of Valor. These quilts are made of the finest materials and designs, with each being appraised at a value between \$600–\$1,400. These quilts, however, are not charity quilts—they are ceremoniously bestowed awards earned by servicemembers and veterans for their commitment and sacrifices.

While the estimated impact to the economy is \$10,000,000 per year, the real benefits of these quilts cannot be quantified. Ms. Roberts' vision of providing comfort sends an unequivocal message to our Nation's servicemembers and veterans: "Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our nation." One such veteran, John Rowdy Oxley—a Vietnam-era veteran—served at the Battle of Ap Bac and suffered from extreme PTSD. Now a Board Member of QOVF, John says that his receipt of a Quilt of Valor turned his life around. QOVF boasts of many such testimonies of lives changed by this simple, yet profoundly impactful gift.

QOVF has partnered with American Gold Star Mothers, Authentically American, the National Grange, Wreaths Across America, JDX Racing, the Vietnam War Commemoration, and has a Platinum Rating by GuideStar.

QOVF's contribution to our Nation cannot be overstated. Through the vision provided by Ms. Roberts to wrap the lonely soldier on a cot in a quilt, and through the tireless efforts of the Foundation and its many members, our servicemembers and veterans experience hope and healing. On behalf of the United States Congress, and as a veteran myself, I congratulate the Quilts of Valor Foundation on reaching 335,000 servicemembers and veterans and thank them for their indispensable service to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HASSELL FRANKLIN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Hassell Franklin. Hassell passed away on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at the age of 87. The northeast Mississippi native grew up on a farm and was a classmate of Elvis Presley in Tupelo. He served in the U.S. Army and commanded

the company that protected James Meredith during the integration of the University of Mississippi. He later graduated from Mississippi State University, having earned an industrial engineering degree.

Hassell was the founder and CEO of Franklin Corp., one of the largest privately owned furniture manufacturers in the nation, based out of Houston, Mississippi. The esteemed businessman began Franklin Corp. in 1970, which has been supplying upholstered furniture worldwide for over 50 years.

He was also a philanthropist, establishing a \$1 million endowment at Mississippi State University to build the Franklin Furniture Institute, a research and training center benefiting the furniture community. Hassell was recognized and honored as a Mississippi State Alumnus of the Year, as well as an Itawamba Community College Alumnus of the Year.

During his career, Hassell was actively involved in the community, serving as a past president and board member of the CREATE Foundation, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Regional Rehabilitation Center, United Way of Northeast Mississippi, and Sanctuary Hospice House. He served as lead director of BancorpSouth (now Candence Bank) as well as on the boards of the Mississippi Economic Council, North Mississippi Health Services, the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal Publishing Co., Journal Publishing Houston, Commission on the Future of Northeast Mississippi, Community Development Foundation, and Community Relations Association.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BECCA BALINT

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, due to illness I was unable to be present on January 24th. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA Roll Call No. 32, and YEA on Roll Call No. 33.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on January 21, 2023, a mass shooting in Monterey Park, California, claimed the lives of 11 people in my district. I remained in my community to respond to this crisis and participate in a vigil for the lives lost during this tragedy. I was unable to be in Washington for votes on January 24, 2023.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 32, and YEA on Roll Call No. 33.

IN MEMORY OF EDITH "MIMA" MORISSEAU

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Edith "Mima" Morisseau, a long-

time resident of Detroit, as we mourn her passing.

Whether you knew her as Edith, Edie, or Mima, her warm-hearted nature shined through in all that she did. She was an active member of Detroit's Haitian Network Group, where she served as treasurer. She was an awe-inspiring woman and an advocate for the immigrant community.

Edith emigrated to the U.S. in 1951 and to Detroit in 1956 from Port-au-Prince, Haiti. She and her husband, the Reverend E. Dumont Morisseau, came to Detroit with their 3 young children so that the Reverend could perform his work at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. Alongside her husband, she was deeply committed to the church and the community, but she also had career goals of her own. Edith enrolled in classes at Mercy College and earned her bachelor's degree in nursing, and much later went on to earn a master's from Wayne State University in psychiatry. Edith was employed by the State of Michigan for numerous years as Head of Psychiatric Nursing, retiring in 1984. She then transitioned to work as a marriage therapist for several years.

Always one to remember those who are less fortunate, she served for more than 20 years as a volunteer with Haiti Outreach Mission, assisting the people of Haiti with various medical needs. She served as warden at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and has provided counseling and nursing to numerous residents of Detroit.

Please join me in recognizing Ms. Edith Morisseau's outstanding contributions to the communities of southeast Michigan as we honor her memory.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM MINNERY

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tom Minnery, who passed away on Christmas Eve.

Tom will be remembered most for his devotion to family and to God. As one of the greatest champions of family values our country has ever known, I am proud to have called him a friend.

In 1987, Tom co-founded Citizen magazine with Dr. James Dobson, a publication dedicated to educating and encouraging Christians to become more engaged citizens. Tom cited Proverbs 11:11 in his very first column, "The good influence of godly citizens causes a city to prosper, but the moral decay of the wicked drives it downhill."

Tom also founded and became senior vice president of Focus on the Family's department of Government and Public Policy. He positioned himself in this role as a leading voice for family values in our nation's most important conversations. This colored his founding of Citizenlink—now Family Policy Alliance—in October 2013, in which he served as CEO and president until his retirement in 2017.

Even in retirement, he remained an active pro-family policy advocate. He was a beloved member of his church, where he served as an elder, and was the recipient of several awards from local civic and church groups. He is survived by his wife, Deb, their 3 children and 7 grandchildren.